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\$10 Million NIH Grant: Physical Sciences Oncology Center at Penn

University of Pennsylvania investigators at a new Penn research center will focus on key physical principles that underpin cancer's development and growth.

A five-year, \$10 million grant award from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is supporting the establishment of the Physical Sciences Oncology Center at Penn, or PSOC@Penn. It is one of four centers the National Cancer Institute of the NIH is funding across the country as part of its Physical Sciences in Oncology Network. The network was started in 2009 in recognition of the fact that perspectives rooted in physics, mathematics, chemistry and engineering can all contribute to cancer research.

The Penn team members will make fundamental physical measurements as they clarify mechanisms of how tumors become palpably distinct masses and also how such physical changes contribute to tumor growth. Their research will focus on liver cancer; more than 30,000 people in the United States are diagnosed each year with liver cancer, according to the American Cancer Society, and the five-year survival rate is less than 15 percent. New methods to improve early detection and treatment of the disease are needed.

"A key challenge facing cancer research in this age of precision medicine is to deeply comprehend the molecular causes and consequences of tissue changes that are often first measured by clinicians in physical exams of tumors," said center leader Dennis E. Discher, the Robert D. Bent Professor in Penn's School of Engineering & Applied Science.



Dennis Discher

The Center represents a convergence of interests and accomplishments of co-investigators, including professors Rebecca Wells (medicine), Paul Janmey (physiology), Emma Furth (pathology), David Kaplan (gastroenterology & immunology), Roger Greenberg (cancer biology) and Mark Lemmon (biochemistry) in Penn's Perelman School of Medicine; Ravi Radhakrishnan (bioengineering), Vivek Shenoy (materials science & engineering) and John Crocker (chemical & biomolecular engineering) in Penn's School of Engineering & Applied Science; and Andrea Liu (physics & astronomy), Tobias Baumgart (chemistry) and Wei Guo (biology) in Penn's School of Arts & Sciences.

"Many tumors are first detected as hard lumps of stiff tissue," Dr. Wells said. "In some cases such as breast cancer, increased tissue stiffness appears to be a risk factor for cancer. Our research will focus on liver cancer because current clinical evidence suggests that liver stiffening may work in the same way, as a high

risk factor for developing that disease."

The researchers will interact closely, bringing together world leaders in cell and tissue mechanobiology and physics-based theory. They will also employ single molecule imaging and molecular biophysics in foundational studies of molecular and tissue profiles, which are rapidly emerging as a way to precisely define a patient's disease.

"Results from our initial studies already suggest that stiffening of tissue can increase cell proliferation and lead to other cellular changes that contribute to cancer," said Dr. Janmey.

Specific molecules and cells that Center investigators discover to be contributors to physical changes in liver cancer will become candidates for new therapies.

The key scientific issue driving PSOC@Penn's research agenda is an emerging awareness that tumor microenvironments can contribute to how cell sub-populations are selected to grow and further evolve. In solid tumors such as liver cancer, it has long been known that stiff, scar-like collagen accumulates in nearby normal tissue, much like what occurs when tissue is injured. Recent research has also shown that a physical stiffness of microenvironments can in turn promote proliferation and can influence gene expression related to cancer's spread.

"We hypothesize that differences between cells in a given population can arise due to physical properties of microenvironments," Dr. Discher said. "Furthermore, mutations might also be caused directly by physical properties of microenvironments and thus drive cancer."

PSOC@Penn will approach questions regarding the effects of physical microenvironment on tumor development with new multidisciplinary methods. While focused on liver cancer, the Center will develop widely applicable techniques for measuring both the mechanical properties and molecular makeup of a patient's tumors compared to adjacent normal tissue. Theoretical approaches from the fields of soft matter physics and engineering will enable better interpretation of clinical results and predict effects of physical, biochemical and drug interactions.

Physicochemical studies of single cancer cells will go beyond the cell membrane and into the nucleus. The membrane is how a cell senses physical properties of its surrounding environment, but that information must be transmitted inside the cell for it to change its molecular machinery. Center researchers will visualize this process with super-resolution microscopy, a method that earned its inventors a Nobel Prize in 2014. Probing down to the single-molecule level will provide sufficient structural information to enable realistic simulations on supercomputers, which can be used to generate predictions of these molecules' functions.

The Center also aims to understand how the shape of the cell's nucleus changes as part of a

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Penn's Inaugural China Research and Engagement Fund Awards

University of Pennsylvania President Amy Gutmann and Provost Vincent Price announced the first recipients of the Penn China Research and Engagement Fund (CREF) awards.

Established last spring (*Almanac* April 14, 2015), CREF will award up to \$10 million over the next five years in the form of matching research grants to Penn faculty to stimulate and support research activity and engagement in China.

"Penn's China Research and Engagement Fund builds on the deep connections between Penn and China forged over nearly two centuries," Dr. Gutmann said. "Advancing Penn's dual mission of research and learning, the awards expand access to Penn's exceptional intellectual resources as one of the world's leading research universities and strengthen collaborative relationships between Penn's eminent scholars and researchers and our Chinese peers to spur innovative broad thinking in seeking real world solutions on issues that confront all societies."

"Penn's engagement in China via research, academic and student exchanges and broad partnerships with Chinese institutions benefits Penn's campus and community and enhances global understanding and discovery by bringing the world to Penn and Penn to the world."

The inaugural Penn CREF grants, totaling nearly \$3.8 million during the first three years of the fund, support 16 projects involving researchers across Penn's 12 schools and also six centers and institutes that are working in collaboration with 35 Chinese institutional partners, as well as

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US News Rankings

In the recently released *US News & World Report* rankings of colleges and universities, Penn is ranked ninth overall among national universities. Duke remains in the eighth slot that it shared with Penn last year while Princeton, Harvard and Yale remain in the top three slots.

The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania has retained its #1 place yet again for best undergraduate business program in the country. It also ranked #1 in four specialties: finance, insurance/risk management, marketing and real estate. It ranked #2 in management; #3 in quantitative analysis/methods; and #4 in accounting, entrepreneurship and international business.

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University Operations During the Visit by Pope Francis to Philadelphia

Last month we announced that Penn would suspend normal operations on Friday, September 25, to accommodate the travel and logistical challenges that will exist in the Philadelphia region during the visit by Pope Francis. We write now to provide an update on the University's preparations.

As a reminder, all classes and University-sponsored events are cancelled on this date. Designated essential personnel—including offices such as but not limited to Public Safety, Dining Services and Facilities that provide essential services, University emergency personnel and those responsible for the health and safety of students and lab animals—will be required to report to work and should consult with their supervisors about accommodations and scheduling. Other staff members, faculty members and students should treat the day under the same protocols as a weather-related suspension of operations. Penn Medicine staff should consult with their supervisors about work schedules.

A web page has been created with details on the hours of operation and availability of student services during the weekend of the Pope's visit. The website will be updated as any new or additional information becomes available, and can be accessed at: <http://www.upenn.edu/about/papal-visit>

During the Pope's visit, traffic closures will extend to 38th Street. A map showing the areas of the city that will be blocked to traffic can be accessed directly at this link: <http://www.upenn.edu/about/papal-visit-maps>. The Division of Public Safety is working with essential personnel from the University and Penn Medicine to provide access, as well as retail stores and restaurants in University City to access the traffic box for essential business purposes during specific non-peak hours.

Public Safety has also developed a set of alternate routes to campus for those who will need to travel to work during the Papal visit. While road closures and traffic cannot be guaranteed, the alternate suggestions may provide you with useful options to consider if you must travel during this time period. The alternate routes can be found at: <http://www.upenn.edu/about/papal-visit-maps#papal-routes>

Additional information from the City of Philadelphia can be found at this site: <http://www.phila.gov/InformationCenters/pope/Pages/default.aspx>

We very much appreciate the dedication and commitment of all those in the Penn family who will be working through this historic weekend to ensure that our students, faculty and staff have access to facilities and services and patients at our hospitals continue to receive world-class care.

—Vincent Price, Provost

—Craig Carnaroli, Executive Vice President

\$10 Million NIH Grant: Physical Sciences Oncology Center at Penn

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response to altered microenvironments. Nuclei differ in their stiffness, which can prevent them from moving through tight tissue spaces. Whether and why such processes might also lead to damage of the DNA contained therein will be important to quantify, as DNA damage is a likely cause of mutations that drive cancer. Similar studies will be conducted of the nucleus in other types of liver cells, including immune cells that might also be made to attack cancer cells. New biophysical concepts, as well as methods, tools and mathematical theories, are all integral to the diversity of the Center's efforts.

"Integration across the Penn campus will be enhanced by the new Center's connections to other centers in the Physical Sciences Oncology Network," Dr. Discher said. "This should stimulate the pace of discovery in these exciting topics."

This highly interdisciplinary effort will extend beyond Penn's campus and the NIH's network. Education and outreach activities will build bridges between communities. The Center will promote dialogue between physical scientists and theorists on the one side, and cancer biologists on the other, in order to facilitate the development of new breakthroughs. Seminars, symposia and additional Center activities will be open to all interested researchers as well as the public, and outreach will extend to demonstrations at cancer awareness forums. Penn's new Center will support the cancer research community by providing opportunities for quantitative investigators and for students to receive education in cancer biology and to become embedded in laboratories. The Center will also support pilot grants for interdisciplinary, collaborative research at the intersection of the physical sciences and cancer research.

Key collaborators of the Center include Chi Van Dang, director of Penn's Abramson Cancer Center; liver and transplant surgeons Kim Olthoff and Abraham Shaked; cell biologist Michael Lampson and outreach coordinator James McGonigle.

Death

Daniel W. Dietrich II, ICA Overseer

Daniel W. Dietrich II, a philanthropist who gave generously to Penn's Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA), died on September 1 at Paoli Hospital. He was 73 years old.

Mr. Dietrich earned his bachelor's degree in art history from Hamilton College. He was heir to a family conglomerate that included Luden's cough drops, where he once served as vice president. He had served on ICA's board of overseers beginning in 1969 and became an emeritus overseer in 2014. Earlier this year, Mr. Dietrich gave \$10 million to ICA, doubling the institution's endowment (*Almanac* May 12, 2015). The gift supports ICA's artist-centered mission and guarantees multi-year curatorial research and exhibition development opportunities.

Mr. Dietrich is survived by his partner, Deborah Ullman, and three sons, William S. Hildreth, Daniel W. III and Adam.



Daniel Dietrich II

Photograph by Shira Yudkoff

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From the Office of the Provost

Establishing Provost's Arts Advisory Council

Provost Vincent Price and Vice Provost for Faculty Anita Allen announce the creation of a Provost's Arts Advisory Council. Under the leadership of Vice Provost Allen, the Council will advise the Provost on and map the future of the arts at Penn. Building on the achievements of the three-year Art and Culture Initiative (2012-2015) co-sponsored by the Office of the Provost and the School of Arts & Sciences and led by Professor Karen Beckman, the Council will develop new arts initiatives and collaborations among arts centers and academic programs, administer interdisciplinary arts grants, and draft proposals to strategically advance the arts and arts education at Penn, consistent with University-wide goals of innovation, social impact and the integration of knowledge.

The members of the Council are:

Norman Badler, Rachleff Professor of Computer and Information Science, SEAS
Karen Beckman, chair and Jaffe Professor of the History of Art, SAS
Winka Dubbeldam, chair and professor of architecture, School of Design
Al Filreis, Kelly Professor of English, SAS, and faculty director, Kelly Writers House
Jeffrey Kallberg, associate dean for arts and letters and Kenan Professor of Music, SAS
Lynn Marsden-Atlass, University curator and director, Arthur Ross Gallery
Laurie McCall, director, Platt Student Performing Arts House
Joshua Mosley, chair and professor of fine arts, School of Design
Michael Rose, managing director, Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts
Amy Sadao, Dietrich Director, Institute of Contemporary Art
Julian Siggers, Williams Director, Penn Museum
Anthony Sorrentino, executive director, Office of the Executive Vice President
Karl Ulrich, vice dean for entrepreneurship and innovation and
CIBC Professor of Entrepreneurship and E-Commerce, Wharton School

To Report A Death

Almanac appreciates being informed of the deaths of current and former faculty and staff members, students and other members of the University community. Call (215) 898-5274 or email almanac@upenn.edu

Inaugural China Research and Engagement Fund Awards *(continued from page 1)*

more than 10 organizations worldwide.

"Penn has a historic commitment to the integration of knowledge across disciplines," Dr. Price said. "The complexity of global issues requires multidisciplinary solutions, especially for future challenges that are difficult to anticipate. These exciting projects demonstrate this breadth of expertise among our 12 schools, drawing their strength and innovation from perspectives that span diverse areas of inquiry."

From *Prenatal Ambient Air Pollution and Fetal and Child Development in South China* to *Improving the Productive and Health Efficiency of the Chinese Dairy Industry*, the CREF-sponsored projects cover a broad array of issues including economic history, connections between health and the environment, improving treatment for disease, urbanization and the growth of cities in China and state-owned enterprise

reform. The awards support visits to China by more than 100 faculty and students per year and deepen Penn's understanding of China and collaboration with Chinese partners.

In addition to research-based proposals, there are three projects that expand Penn student programming in China, increasing the opportunity for Penn students to travel in and around China, as well as two new short-term global seminars to be held in China.

Penn's connections in China include nearly 4,000 Penn alumni who currently live in China and Hong Kong and more than 10,000 alumni who live throughout Asia. Chinese students make up a large percentage of Penn's international undergraduate and graduate student population on campus, and annually Penn sends many students to China for study abroad programs and internship exchanges. At present,

Penn has 180 faculty members with more than 275 projects in or relating to China.

The CREF awards represent another major milestone in Penn's engagement in China following the opening of the Penn Wharton China Center in Beijing in March (*Almanac* March 17, 2015). The Center provides logistical support for research, academic and student exchanges and for broad partnerships with China, as well as events and symposia on important academic topics for students, faculty and alumni.

As another opportunity to connect with alumni in China, the University convened the annual Silfen Forum in Beijing last Thursday. Named for David Silfen, a 1966 Penn alumnus, and his wife, Lyn, the forum brought together world-renowned figures in conversation with President Gutmann to reflect on the roles of China and the United States in the world.

2015 Recipients of the China Research and Engagement Fund Awards

Below are the recipients for the 2015 funding cycle, listed in alphabetical order by last name of the Principal Investigator.

- *Prenatal Ambient Air Pollution and Fetal and Child Development in South China*; Jere Behrman, W.R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Economics; SAS, Population Studies Center and *Penn Partners*: PSOM (pharmacology); GSE (psychology); SAS (sociology); Center for the Study of Contemporary China and *Chinese Partners*: Guangdong Women and Children's Hospital.

- *A Tale of Two Capitals: A Comparative Study of Development in Beijing and Ulaanbaatar*; Mien-hwa Chiang, director, Chinese language program; senior lecturer in foreign languages; *Co-Principal Investigators*: Melissa DiFrancesco, associate director, Center for East Asian Studies; David Dettmann, US director, American Center for Mongolian Studies (ACMS); SAS, Center for East Asian Studies and *Penn Partners*: SAS, American Center for Mongolian Studies and *Chinese Partners*: Inter-University Program (IUP) for Chinese Language Studies; Peking University.

- *The United States, China and International Law*; Jacques deLisle, professor of law; *Co-Principal Investigator*: William W. Burke-White, deputy dean, professor of law and Richard Perry Professor and Inaugural Director, Perry World House; Penn Law and *Penn Partners*: Center for the Study of Contemporary China, Perry World House and *Chinese Partners*: Tsinghua University (Law School); Shanghai Jiaotong University (Law School).

- *China in the Global Economic History*; Jesus Fernandez-Villaverde, professor of economics; SAS (economics) and *Chinese Partners*: Tsinghua University.

- *Improving the Productive and Health Efficiency of the Chinese Dairy Industry*; David Galligan, professor of animal health economics and *Co-Principal Investigators*: Jim Ferguson, professor of nutrition; Zhengxia Dou, professor of agricultural systems; School of Veterinary Medicine and *Penn Partners*: School of Veterinary Medicine (New Bolton Center, clinical studies) and *Chinese Partners*: Inner Mongolia University; Zoetis and *Other Partners*: Wu Nutritional Consulting (Oxford, PA), Pennsylvania Center for Dairy Excellence, Walmoore Dairy Farms (Chatham, PA).

- *New Horizons in East Asia*; Mauro Guillen, director, Lauder Institute and *Co-Principal Investigators*: Frederick Dickinson, deputy director, Center for the Integrated Study of Japan; Kenric Tsethlikai, managing director, Lauder Institute; Wharton, Lauder Institute and *Penn Partners*: Center for East Asian Studies, Center for the Study of Contemporary China, Center for the Integrated Study of Japan, James Joo Kim Program, Wharton (Wharton external relations) and *Chinese Partners*: Beijing Foreign Studies University; Fudan University and *Other Partners*: Kyoto University (Kyoto, Japan); Seoul National University (Seoul, Korea).

- *Penn China Cardiovascular Imaging Project*; Yuchi Han, assistant professor of medicine and *Co-Principal Investigators*: Dinesh Jagasia, professor of clinical medicine; Yundai Chen, chief, cardiovascular medicine, PLA General Hospital; PSOM and

Penn Partners: PSOM (non-invasive cardiovascular medicine, interventional cardiovascular medicine and radiology) and *Chinese Partners*: PLA General Hospital (cardiovascular medicine), Peking Union Medical Center Hospital (cardiovascular medicine).

- *Advancing Dental Research and Clinical Practice in China*; Syngcuk Kim, Louis I Grossman Professor of Endodontics & associate dean for global affairs and *Co-Principal Investigators*: Songtao Shi, chair and professor, anatomy and cell biology; Dana Graves, interim chair and professor of periodontics, vice dean for scholarship and research, director for doctor of science in dentistry program; Hyun Koo, professor of orthodontics; School of Dental Medicine and *Penn Partners*: School of Dental Medicine (biochemistry); PSOM (Center for Targeted Therapeutics and Translational Nanomedicine); Penn Center for Musculoskeletal Diseases; SEAS (bioengineering and chemical & biomolecular engineering) and *Chinese Partners*: Sichuan University (West China College of Stomatology); Peking University School and Hospital of Stomatology (oral and maxillofacial surgery); Wuhan University (School of Stomatology); Fourth Military Medical University (School of Stomatology); Drum Tower Clinical Medical College of Nanjing Medical University (rheumatology and immunology).

- *Linguistic Diversity in China*; Mark Liberman, director, Linguistic Data Consortium and *Co-Principal Investigators*: Christopher Cieri, executive director; Jiahong Yuan, associate director of speech research; Linguistic Data Consortium, SAS and *Penn Partners*: SAS (East Asian languages and civilizations and linguistics) and *Chinese Partners*: Beijing Normal University; Minzu University; Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (dialectology and phonetics); Beijing Language and Culture University (School of Linguistic Sciences).

- *Ownership Challenges and the Next Round of Reform of Chinese State-Controlled Enterprises*; Marshall Meyer, professor emeritus of management and sociology and *Co-Principal Investigators*: Ann Harrison, professor of management and business economics and public policy; Minyuan Zhao, associate professor of management; Linda Zhao, professor of statistics; Wharton (management and statistics) and *Penn Partners*: Wharton Global Initiatives and *Chinese Partners*: Shanghai Jiaotong University (Antai School); Peking University (Cisco Leadership Program, Guanghua School); Gavekal Dragonomics; Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (School of Business).

- *Building Capacity for Interprofessional Pain Education and Evidence-based Practice to Improve Perioperative Pain Care in China*; Rosemary Polomano, professor of pain practice; professor of anesthesiology & critical care and *Co-Principal Investigators*: Renyu Liu, associate professor of anesthesiology & critical care, co-director, Penn-China Anesthesia Partnership Program; Joshua H. Atkins, assis-

tant professor of anesthesiology & critical care, co-director, Penn-China Anesthesia Partnership Program; School of Nursing and *Penn Partners*: PSOM (anesthesiology and critical care) and *Chinese Partners*: Peking University (School of Nursing); PKU Third Hospital; Peking Union Medical College.

- *Duration*; Ali Rahim, professor of architecture; Stefan Al, associate professor of urban design; School of Design and *Penn Partners*: School of Design (with Dean Marilyn Taylor, Professor Eugenie Birch and the Mellon H+U+D Colloquium) and *Chinese Partners*: Contemporary Architecture Practice (CAP).

- *The PennDesign China Research Program*; Marilyn Jordan Taylor and *Co-Principal Investigators*: Richard Weller, Martin and Margy Meyerson Chair of Urbanism and professor and chair of landscape architecture; John Landis, professor of city & regional planning; Stefan Al, associate professor of urban design; Randy Mason, professor and chair of the graduate program in historic preservation and executive director of PennPraxis; Nancy Davenport, assistant professor of fine arts, photography; School of Design and *Penn Partners*: Carnegie Mellon-Penn Center for Safe and Effective Transportation Technologies (T-SET); Penn IUR; SEAS; Wharton; SAS; Penn Museum; PennDesign (landscape architecture and regional planning, city & regional planning, fine arts, architecture, graduate program in historic preservation) and *Chinese Partners*: Tongji University; AECOM; Beijing Forestry University; Southeast University; Xi'an University of Architecture & Technology; South China Agricultural University; Chongqing University; Chinese University of Hong Kong; University of Hong Kong; Peking University; Tsinghua University; World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for Asia and the Pacific and *Other Partners*: Lee Kuan Yew World Cities Program; Center for Livable Cities Singapore; Urban Land Institute, Asia.

- *The Rise of the City in China*; Susan Wachter, Sussman Professor of Real Estate; Wharton (real estate) and *Penn Partners*: Wharton (management) and *Chinese Partners*: Peking University.

- *Community in-Alliance for Recovery: Challenging Mental Health Stigma in Rural China*; Yin Ling Irene Wong, associate professor and *Co-Principal Investigators*: Mao-Sheng Ran, University of Hong Kong, Social Work & Social Administration; An-Li Wang, Annenberg Public Policy Center; David Metzger, psychiatry; SP2 and *Penn Partners*: Annenberg Public Policy Center Health Communication, PSOM (psychiatry) and *Chinese Partners*: University of Hong Kong (social work and social administration).

- *Penn Media Scholars in China*; Guobin Yang, associate professor; Annenberg School for Communication and SAS (sociology) and *Chinese Partners*: Peking University (Center for Public Communication and Social Development, School of Journalism and Communication); Zhejiang University (College of Media and International Culture).

Honors & Other Things

ASA Honors

Two Penn Medicine researchers from the Center for Clinical Epidemiology & Biostatistics (CCEB) were honored with the 2015 Outstanding Statistical Application Award from the American Statistical Association (ASA) in August at the Joint Statistical Meetings.

Authors of the paper include *Wensheng Guo*, professor of biostatistics in the department of biostatistics & epidemiology at the Perelman School of Medicine and a scholar in the CCEB, and *Anne R. Cappola*, associate professor in the division of endocrinology, diabetes & metabolism at Penn's Perelman School of Medicine and an associate scholar in the CCEB. The paper, titled "Modeling Bivariate Longitudinal Hormone Profiles by Hierarchical State Space Models" and published in the *Journal of American Statistical Association*, was recognized for its contribution to modeling the complex feed-back and feed-forward relationship between different hormones in humans.

In addition, *Mary D. Sammel*, professor of biostatistics in biostatistics & epidemiology at Penn, was elected as a Fellow of the ASA. Dr. Sammel was recognized for her outstanding contributions in introducing and establishing statistical science as a core aspect of the field of women's health and reproduction research; for the achievement of a stellar, relevant and important body of work in women's health; for outstanding mentoring of women and junior researchers; and for major contributions in the development of statistical methodology.

Rinad Beidas: ABCT President's New Researcher Award

Rinad Beidas, assistant professor of psychology in the department of psychiatry at the Perelman School of Medicine and a senior fellow in the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics at Penn, was recently honored with the President's New Researcher Award from the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (ABCT).

Dr. Beidas was recognized for her robust body of early research on the dissemination and implementation of evidence-based practices (EBPs)—those practices proven to be most successful through clinical expertise, scientific research and patient preference—in the treatment of youth with psychiatric disorders in community settings.



Wensheng Guo



Anne Cappola

Urs Giger: Excellence in Feline Research Award

Urs Giger, the Charlotte Newton Sheppard

Professor of Medicine in Penn's School of Veterinary Medicine and a professor of hematology in the Perelman School of Medicine, received the 2015 Excellence in Feline Research Award from the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Council for Research, the American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF) and the Winn Feline Foundation.

Dr. Giger was selected for his outstanding contributions in advancing feline health through his clinical and basic research, service and teaching in feline medicine over the past 30 years. In particular, his research in feline clinical genetics, hematology and transfusion medicine has been transformative. The award and a \$2,500 honorarium were presented at a reception at the University of California, Davis in August.

Helen McFie: Rowing Champion

Helen McFie, lecturer in foreign languages and co-director of the Italian language program at Penn, is also a champion rower. She represented Vesper Boat Club at the US Rowing Masters National Championship in August in Camden, New Jersey. Dr. McFie won a 5x5, or five gold medals for five races.



Urs Giger



Helen McFie

NIH Neuro Startup Challenge Winners

Krystle Karoscik, MLA'15, a project manager in the department of neurology at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and *Medha Sengupta*, MLA'15, a clinical coordinator at Penn's Perelman School of Medicine, were winners in the National Institute of Health's (NIH) Neuro Startup Challenge. The NIH developed the challenge to attract students to create launch campaigns for its unlicensed technologies, all of which treat brain-related illnesses.

Ms. Karoscik and Ms. Sengupta are now working to market a device that simulates a blast-induced traumatic brain injury (TBI), offering hope for the future diagnosis and treatment of TBIs. This new technology is unique because of its ability to examine and record—on a cellular level—what occurs when brain cells are exposed to a blast from an explosive device.

Penn's Robotic Soccer Team: RoboCup Winners

Penn's robotic soccer team won the Robot Soccer World Cup's AdultSize Humanoid League for the second year in a row. Its robot, *THORwIn*, a collaboration with UCLA, beat Iran's Team Baset in a 5-4 shootout in Hefei, China. Coached by *Daniel Lee*, director of the School of Engineering & Applied Science's GRASP Lab, the robotic soccer team consists of *Steve McGill*, *Seung-Joon Yi*, *Heejin Jeong*, *Jinwook Huh*, *Marcell Missura*, *Dickens He*, *Sagar Poudel*, *Jianqiao Li*, *Yongbo Qian*, *Rachel Han*, *Kyuil Lee* and *Austin Small*.

Competing in RoboCup's most advanced league, "AdultSize Humanoid," *THORwIn* had to locate the ball, dribble around obstacles and shoot against the opponent's robotic goalie to score. To simulate the human experience of the game, the robots must use eye-like cameras to see the ball, goals and other players, and use brain-like onboard processors to put all of this information together. Most importantly, the robots must make all decisions autonomously.

2016 Models of Excellence Award Nominations: October 29

Penn staff members are known for their exemplary work, and now is your chance to recognize these efforts with Penn's 2016 Models of Excellence award. Nominations for the 2016 awards are open now through *October 29, 2015*.

The Models of Excellence award program celebrates the extraordinary achievements of full- and part-time staff across the University's schools and centers. Awards are given in three categories:

- *Models of Excellence Award*—Recognizes staff member accomplishments that reflect initiative, leadership, increased efficiency and a deep commitment to service.
- *Model Supervisor Award*—Honors supervisors who contribute to Penn's success.
- *Pillars of Excellence Award*—Celebrates the important work that weekly-paid staff members do to promote Penn's success.

New this year, you have an easier, greener way to nominate the exceptional staff members you know by using an online application.

The form is available at <https://www.hr.upenn.edu/models>

All nominees receive a certificate of appreciation for their service. Models of Excellence, Pillars of Excellence and Model Supervisor winners each receive \$500 and a symbolic award. Nominees selected for honorable mention receive \$250 and a symbolic award. Awards will be presented at the Models of Excellence ceremony on March 30, 2016 in Irvine Auditorium. The entire Penn community is invited to attend.

Visit <https://www.hr.upenn.edu/models> for more information about the Models of Excellence program, or contact Human Resources at models@hr.upenn.edu or (215) 898-1012 if you have questions.

—Division of Human Resources



Rinad Beidas

University Research Foundation Applications: October 23

The University Research Foundation (URF) is now accepting applications for the *October 23, 2015* deadline. The URF is an intramural funding program that provides up to \$50,000 support for research projects and up to \$3,000 for conference support.

The objectives of the URF research program are to:

(1) help junior faculty undertake pilot projects that will enable them to successfully apply for extramural sources of funding and aid in establishing their careers as independent investigators;

(2) help established faculty perform novel, pioneering research to determine project feasibility and develop preliminary data to support extramural grant applications;

(3) provide support in disciplines where extramural support is difficult to obtain and where significant research can be facilitated with internal funding; and

(4) provide limited institutional matching funds that are required as part of a successful external peer-reviewed application.

URF Review Panels comprise established Penn faculty members and are charged with giving preference to projects that meet one of the aforementioned criteria.

As part of the University's commitment to providing research opportunities to scholars across our campus community, URF applicants are encouraged to include undergraduate student participants within the framework of their proposals. URF Review Panels will take undergraduate participation under strong consideration when evaluating and scoring proposals. Should applicants require assistance in identifying interested and qualified undergraduates, the Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships (CURF) will be glad to provide support: curf@upenn.edu

Faculty members are invited to submit their research applications to one of four disciplinary areas: Biomedical Sciences, Humanities, Natural Sciences and Engineering, and Social Science and Management. In addition, URF offers a Conference Support program to provide funding for meetings designed to enhance existing research and scholarly programs, particularly in disciplines where external funding is difficult to obtain. Conferences that promote interdisciplinary and multi-school participation are given priority.

Complete details about the URF and links to the forms can be found on the Office of the Vice Provost for Research website at www.upenn.edu/research/funding/university_research_foundation

*In the most recent cycle, Spring 2015, of Penn's internally-funded University Research Foundation and URF Conference Support (noted with *), the Office of the Vice Provost for Research has announced awards to the following members of the faculty for the projects listed below.*

Spring 2015: University Research Foundation Awards and Conference Support Awards

Stefan Al, School of Design, city & regional planning, *Sustainable Urban Form: A Comparative Analysis of Asian High-Density Blocks*

Montserrat Anguera, School of Veterinary Medicine, animal biology, *Faulty X-chromosome silencing as significant contributor for female-bias in autoimmunity*

*Robert Aronowitz, School of Arts & Sciences, history & sociology of science, *Joint Atlantic Seminar for the History of Medicine*

Lee Bassett, School of Engineering & Applied Science, electrical & systems engineering, *New Tools for Imaging Neuronal Dynamics using Quantum Probes*

Erfei Bi, Perelman School of Medicine, cell & developmental biology, *Developing a powerful model for mechanistic analysis of cell abscission*

Margaret Bruchac, School of Arts & Sciences, anthropology, *Fictive Kin: Re-assembling Frank Speck's Native Relations and Collections*

Robin Clark, School of Arts & Sciences, linguistics, *Drift and Selection in Language Evolution*

*Karen Detlefsen, School of Arts & Sciences, philosophy, *Women, Liberty, Education Early Modern Philosophy of Education*

Zhengxia Dou, School of Veterinary Medicine, clinical studies, *Household food waste composition and recovery assessment*

Andrea Doyle, School of Social Policy & Practice, *Trauma-Informed Skills for African American Women with a Diagnosis of Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) and HIV*

David Eckmann, Perelman School of Medicine, anesthesiology, *Nanorheology of biological materials*

*Joseph Farrell, School of Arts & Sciences, classical studies, *The Language of the Past and the Future of Ancient Studies*

Loretta Flanagan-Cato, School of Arts & Sciences, psychology, *Dopamine-estradiol interactions and amygdala function*

Grant Frame, School of Arts & Sciences, Near Eastern languages & civilizations, *Completing the Royal Inscriptions of Sargon II of Assyria*

*Ira Harkavy, School of Arts & Sciences, Netter Center, *University-Assisted Community Schools: Advancing the Model Locally, Nationally, and Globally*

Matthew Hayes, Perelman School of Medicine, psychiatry, *Examination of novel neuroendocrine signaling pathways to affect food reward*

Olena Jacenko, School of Veterinary Medicine, biomedical studies, *Could a young niche rejuvenate hematopoiesis?*

F. Brad Johnson, Perelman School of Medicine, pathology & laboratory medicine, *Deciphering functions of microRNAs encoded from HLA class I loci*

*Michael Kahana, School of Arts & Sciences, psychology, *2016 Context and Episodic Memory Symposium*

*Justin Khoury, School of Arts & Sciences, physics & astronomy, *New Frontiers in Cosmology and String Theory*

Bekir Harun Kucuk, School of Arts & Sciences, history & sociology of science, *Enlightenment and Imperial Decline: Ottoman Cultures of Naturalism, 1650-1750*

*Annette Lareau, School of Arts & Sciences, sociology, *Culture and Interaction Conference*

Christopher Lengner, School of Veterinary Medicine, animal biology, *Identifying markers for the prospective isolation of reserve intestinal stem cells*

Catherine McDonald, School of Nursing, family & community health, *A Pilot Study of a Mobile Technology Monitoring System to Assess a Web-based Intervention for Teen Risky Driving*

Scott Poethig, School of Arts & Sciences, biology, *The evolution of vegetative phase change in the Acaciae*

Avishag Reisman, Graduate School of Education, *Practice-Based Coaching and Professional Development: Supporting Teacher Facilitation of Whole-Class Text-based History Discussion*

*Charles Brian Rose, School of Arts & Sciences, classical studies, *The World of Phrygian Gordion, Royal City of Midas*

Andrew Saunders, School of Design, architecture, *Digital Analysis of the Latent Topological Structure of Baroque Architecture*

Theodore Schurr, School of Arts & Sciences, anthropology, *Genetic History of Los Floridanos, Florida's First Spanish Families*

Patrick Seale, Perelman School of Medicine, cell & developmental biology, *Impact of aging on beige fat differentiation an energy expenditure*

Robert Seyfarth, School of Arts & Sciences, psychology, *What Makes a Good Seeing Eye Dog*

Tatyana Svitkina, School of Arts & Sciences, biology, *Acquisition of a fluorescence microscope*

*John Tresch, School of Arts & Sciences, history & sociology of science, *Sorting Brains Out: Tasks, Tests, and Trials in the Neuro- and Mind Sciences, 1890-2015*

Kevin Turner, School of Engineering & Applied Science, mechanical engineering & applied mechanics, *Improving Fracture Resistance of Polymer using Cellulose Nanofibrils*

Penn Museum's Lecture Series: Exploring *Great Myths and Legends*

Amazonian warrior women, Genghis Khan, even King Midas and his golden touch—all have their moment in the spotlight with the Penn Museum's popular *Great Myths and Legends* evening lecture series, featuring leading scholars from the Penn Museum, the University of Pennsylvania and beyond. The series kicks off Wednesday, October 7 at 6 p.m., and continues the first Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. through June 2016. Guests can sign up for a series subscription and save: \$40, general public; \$15, Penn Museum members. Individual lectures with advance registration are \$5, general public; \$2, Museum members; and \$10 at the door based on availability. For more information, call (215) 898-2680. To register, visit <http://www.penn.museum/greatmyths> Now in its eighth "Great" season, these wide-ranging illustrated talks incorporate history, anthropology and archaeology. Past themes have included *Great Battles*, *Great Voyages* and *Great Wonders*. With this year's theme, speakers delve into great legends from around the world as they explore the myths of mortals.

Penn Museum stays open first Wednesdays until 8 p.m., and lecture guests are welcome to visit the galleries after the programs.

Great Myths and Legends Series Lineup

October 7, Jennifer Wegner, associate curator, Egyptian Section: *Imhotep: From Architect to Deity to Villain*. This presentation focuses on the historical figure Imhotep, who designed the remarkable Step Pyramid complex at Saqqara, built during the reign of King Djoser (ca. 2687–2668 BCE). After his death, Imhotep was regarded as a great sage and was later deified—becoming one of the few human beings to join the Egyptian pantheon. As a god, Imhotep was regarded as a patron

of healers. Dr. Wegner examines his rise from royal architect to divine being, concluding with an exploration of his appearance in pop culture today.

November 4, Steve Tinney, associate curator-in-charge, Near East Section: *Adapa the Sage: Flood, Myth and Magic in early Mesopotamia*. Thousands of years ago, scholar-priests in ancient Sumer told a tale about a man who lived long before them, a tale of Adapa, who was so clever that his magic could disable the winds, and who traveled to heaven to meet the gods. Recently published tablets shed new light on Adapa, starting with an evocation of the time just after the Great Flood had passed over. Dr. Tinney tells several stories: of the new discoveries and their decipherment; of Adapa himself; and of the ancient guardians of this strange and magical tradition whose writings have survived almost four thousand years.

December 2, Morris Rossabi, Weatherhead East Asian Institute at Columbia University: *Genghis Khan: Barbarian Conqueror or Harbinger of Democracy*. The world has generally viewed Genghis Khan as a barbaric conqueror whose troops raped and murdered hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of people and pillaged and often destroyed villages, towns and cities throughout Asia and Europe. However, several popular writers have recently portrayed him as an advocate of democracy, international law and women's rights. This illustrated lecture seeks to provide a balanced depiction and to explain the reasons for the myths that have developed about the man and the people who established the largest contiguous land empire in world history.

January 6, Janet Monge, curator of physical anthropology: *The Piltdown Fossil Forgery and the Search for the "First Englishman"*. In the early 20th century, hominid fossils were unearthed all over the mainland continent of Europe, but not a single fossil representing human evolution was found in Great Britain. The Piltdown fossil hoax was perpetrated by a forger who altered the bones of a modern human skull and an orangutan jaw, passing them off as a plausible fossil find. Who committed the forgery is considered one of the great mysteries of human evolutionary studies, but the reasons why the British scholarly community accepted it is more broadly revealing of the nature of the scientific endeavor.

February 3, Megan Kassabaum, Weingarten Assistant Curator, American Section, and Simon Martin, associate curator and keeper of collections, American Section: *Hero Twins of the Americas: Myths of Origin, Duality and Vengeance*. Myths concerning the "hero twins" are widespread from Cana-

da to South America. In the archetypal Maya myth, a pair of twin brothers battle with a range of monsters and death deities as they seek to make the world safe for humankind. Instead of defeating their enemies in trials of strength, they outwit them in games of skill, ingenuity and magic, offering role models of how best to survive death and ultimately attain rebirth into the sky. A variety of myths throughout North America draw on these same themes but differ dramatically in the details, demonstrating the incredible antiquity of the basic story and the relationships between the diverse cultures of the New World.

March 2, C. Brian Rose, Ferry Curator-in-Charge, Mediterranean Section: *The Golden Age of King Midas*. Midas was indisputably the most famous ruler of the Phrygian kingdom in central Turkey, and his Golden Touch made him an especially favorite subject in Greek legend. His first monumental project as king was a colossal tomb for his father (ca. 740 B.C.) that was excavated by the University of Pennsylvania in 1957, and the finds from that tomb form the centerpiece of the "Golden Age of King Midas" exhibit at the Penn Museum (February–November 2016). Dr. Rose provides an overview of the city that King Midas ruled, his diplomatic outreach to the Greeks and his antagonistic relationship with the Assyrians.

April 6, Annette Yoshiko Reed, assistant professor of religious studies: *The Queen of Sheba in History and Legend*. Best known from the Bible's account of her marriage to the wise king Solomon, the Queen of Sheba has attracted the curiosity of Jews, Christians and Muslims for millennia. The lecture traces tales about her from Israel to Ethiopia, and explores how traditions about her have traveled between different religions and connected different regions.

May 4, Jeremy McInerney, Davidson Kennedy Professor and Chair of Classical Studies: *Warrior Women: Amazons and the Greek Imagination*. This examines Amazons in Greek legend and art. Who were these warrior women and why did they remain a source of curiosity, wonder and fear in the Greek imagination?

June 1, Paul Cobb, professor of Islamic history: *The Arabian Nights: Medieval Fantasy and Modern Forgery*. *The Arabian Nights* is probably the medieval Arabic book best known in the west, full of ripping yarns and vivid characters that have influenced film, music and literature for centuries. Surprisingly, some of its most cherished tales, such as those of *Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves*, *Sindbad* and even *Aladdin* were added by modern European translators. Dr. Cobb delves into the fascinating history of this book from its origins in ancient Middle Eastern myths to its status as a European bestseller during the Enlightenment.

From the Office of Government and Community Affairs

The Office of Government and Community Affairs promotes voter registration, education and participation across the campus community.

Important Dates

September 17: National Constitution Day

September 22:

National Voter

Registration

Day

October 5: PA

Voter Registra-

tion Deadline

November 3:

Election Day

March 28: PA

Voter Registration Deadline

April 26: Election Day

National Constitution Day: On September 17, Professor Mary Frances Berry will deliver a special Constitution Day 60-Second Lecture, *Our Unjust Constitution and Still We Celebrate*, at Stiteler Plaza at 11:55 a.m.

Get familiar with a Philadelphia voting machine on display in the Penn Bookstore foyer from 11 a.m.–2 p.m. as part of the Constitution Day Voter Registration Drive.

Voter Registration: Online voter registration is now available in Pennsylvania. Go to <http://register.votesPA.com> or visit Houston Hall on September 22 for National Voter Registration Day activities.

Polling Place Volunteers: Students, staff and faculty members are sought to serve on the Boards of Elections at campus polling places on November 3. Email ogca@exchange.upenn.edu for details.

Spread the Word: Follow @PennVoterEd on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for information about voter activities at Penn.



Employee Resource Fair: An Opportunity to Participate

Dear University of Pennsylvania Departments & External Vendors,

The Penn Professional Staff Assembly (PPSA) and the Penn Weekly-Paid Professional Staff Assembly (WPPSA), in partnership with the offices of the Executive Vice President and the Division of Human Resources, are co-sponsoring an Employee Resource Fair on Thursday, October 8 from noon–2 p.m. in Bodek Lounge and the Reading Room in Houston Hall. The purpose of the fair is to provide information to employees regarding the vast and varied campus resources and services available to them. The fair will be open to the entire Penn community.

We are excited to offer you an opportunity to participate in the 2015 Employee Resource Fair. We would welcome representation from your area and encourage you to showcase your services. If you would like to participate, pre-registration is required, and we ask that two representatives from your office staff a table. Typically, participants bring both informational and promotional materials on their services, brochures, giveaways, etc. Please feel free to advertise your participation in the Resource Fair through your email lists and newsletters. Set-up and breakdown will take place from 11 a.m. to noon and from 2 p.m. until 2:30 p.m.

Space is limited so register today. In order to secure your reservation, complete the registration by **September 29, 2015**; go to <https://upenn.irisregistration.com/Auth/Authenticate/>

In addition to the Employee Resource Fair there will be a Volunteer Fair organized in tandem with the event. This Volunteer Fair takes place in the Reading Room right next to Bodek Lounge. PPSA invites groups from the Philadelphia area to inform members of the Penn community about the volunteer opportunities they have available. There will be approximately 10–15 local non-profits represented at the fair. Space is limited.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration to participate in the 2015 Employee Resource Fair. For all inquiries, please contact ppsa@exchange.upenn.edu

—Lucia DiNapoli, PPSA Chair

—Rosa Vargas, WPPSA Chair

Update

September AT PENN

EXHIBIT

Now *Historic Preservation—Feats of Clay: Philadelphia Brick and Terra Cotta*; curated by Frank Matero, PennDesign—traces the rise of the brick and terra cotta industry in Philadelphia; Harvey and Irwin Kroiz Gallery, The Architectural Archives. Through October 9.

SPECIAL EVENT

17 *Faculty and Staff American Red Cross Blood Drive*, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Café 58, Irvine Auditorium. To sign up, visit: <http://penn-ppsa.org/event/faculty-and-staff-american-red-cross-blood-drive-6/> Sponsor code: UPENNFaculty; donor eligibility guidelines: call 1 (800) RED CROSS.

TALKS

21 *I Am from Xinjiang*; Kurbanjan Samat, Central China TV; noon; CSCC Conference Room 345, Fisher-Bennett Hall (Center for the Study of Contemporary China).

AT PENN Deadlines

The September AT PENN calendar is online at www.upenn.edu/almanac. The deadline for the October AT PENN calendar is today, September 15.

Info. is on the sponsoring department's website; sponsors are in parentheses. For locations, call (215) 898-5000 or see www.facilities.upenn.edu

History Comes Alive at Morris Arboretum's Grist Mill Day

On Sunday, September 20, from 1 to 4 p.m., Morris Arboretum will host Grist Mill Demonstration Day at Bloomfield Farm (across the street from the garden's main entrance). Families and history buffs alike will enjoy a visual narrative of the social, economic and technological role mills played in food production in the 19th century. Springfield Mills, one of the Arboretum's oldest architectural features, has been carefully restored and made operational again by a group of dedicated volunteers. Watch one-ton millstones grind corn and wheat kernels. Observe 160-year-old machinery transport and sift the grind to produce meal and flour that will be added to the ingredients to bake muffins on site. Craig SanPietro (below) describes the process. Kids and adults will have the opportunity to grind flour on the pedal powered mill. Free admission but donations appreciated. For more information, go to www.morrisarboretum.org or call (215) 247-5777.



Photograph by Carolyn Clement

Prescription Eyeglass Collection on Campus

Those who have old prescription glasses, readers or sunglasses they no longer need can put them to good use by dropping them off at one of the following campus locations:


- SAS Graduate Division, 3401 Walnut Street, Suite 322A
- Annenberg Public Policy Center, 202 South 36th St., Lobby (M-F 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.)
- Wharton Finance & Administration, Steinberg Hall-Dietrich Hall, 3620 Locust Walk, Suite 1100
- Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine, West Pavilion, 3rd Floor, Ophthalmology Waiting Room

The Staff Eco-Reps are collecting and sending them to Vision Service Plan (VSP) Global's Eyes of Hope program (globaleyesofhope.com), which distributes them to those in need.

For questions regarding collections on Penn's campus, contact Joy Cannon at bjc2@mail.med.upenn.edu



Almanac On-the-Go: RSS Feeds

 *Almanac* provides links to select stories each week there is an issue. RSS is a way to distribute new content to users of RSS readers or news aggregators directly to your computer and other web-enabled devices. Visit *Almanac's* website, www.upenn.edu/almanac for instructions on how to subscribe to the *Almanac* RSS Feed.

Almanac

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Email: almanac@upenn.edu
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The University of Pennsylvania Police Department Community Crime Report

About the Crime Report: Below are all Crimes Against Persons and Crimes Against Society from the campus report for **August 31-September 6, 2015**. Also reported were 17 Crimes Against Property (12 thefts, 2 traffic violations, 1 DUI, 1 fraud and 1 other offense). Full reports are available at: www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/v62/h05/creport.html Prior weeks' reports are also online. —Eds.

This summary is prepared by the Division of Public Safety and includes all criminal incidents reported and made known to the University Police Department between the dates of **August 31-September 6, 2015**. The University Police actively patrol from Market Street to Baltimore Avenue and from the Schuylkill River to 43rd Street in conjunction with the Philadelphia Police. In this effort to provide you with a thorough and accurate report on public safety concerns, we hope that your increased awareness will lessen the opportunity for crime. For any concerns or suggestions regarding this report, please call the Division of Public Safety at (215) 898-4482.

09/04/15	9:44 AM	400 University Ave
09/06/15	10:54 PM	4033 Baltimore Ave

Complainant punched by unknown male
Male assaulted girlfriend/Arrest

18th District Report

Below are the Crimes Against Persons from the 18th District: 3 incidents with 1 arrest (2 aggravated assaults and 1 assault) were reported between **August 31-September 6, 2015** by the 18th District covering the Schuylkill River to 49th Street & Market Street to Woodland Avenue.

09/02/15	10:59 AM	1231 S 49th St
09/04/15	10:19 AM	433 University Ave
09/06/15	11:33 PM	4033 Baltimore Ave

Aggravated Assault
Assault
Aggravated Assault/Arrest

The University of Pennsylvania's journal of record, opinion and news is published Tuesdays during the academic year, and as needed during summer and holiday breaks. Its electronic editions on the Internet (accessible through the Penn website) include HTML, Acrobat and mobile versions of the print edition, and interim information may be posted in electronic-only form. Guidelines for readers and contributors are available on request and online.

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The University of Pennsylvania values diversity and seeks talented students, faculty and staff from diverse backgrounds. The University of Pennsylvania does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, creed, national or ethnic origin, citizenship status, age, disability, veteran status or any other legally protected class status in the administration of its admissions, financial aid, educational or athletic programs, or other University-administered programs or in its employment practices. Questions or complaints regarding this policy should be directed to Sam Starks, Executive Director of the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Programs, Sansom Place East, 3600 Chestnut Street, Suite 228, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6106; or (215) 898-6993 (Voice).



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Christopher Knowles, Josephine Pryde and Becky Suss at Institute of Contemporary Art: September 16-December 27

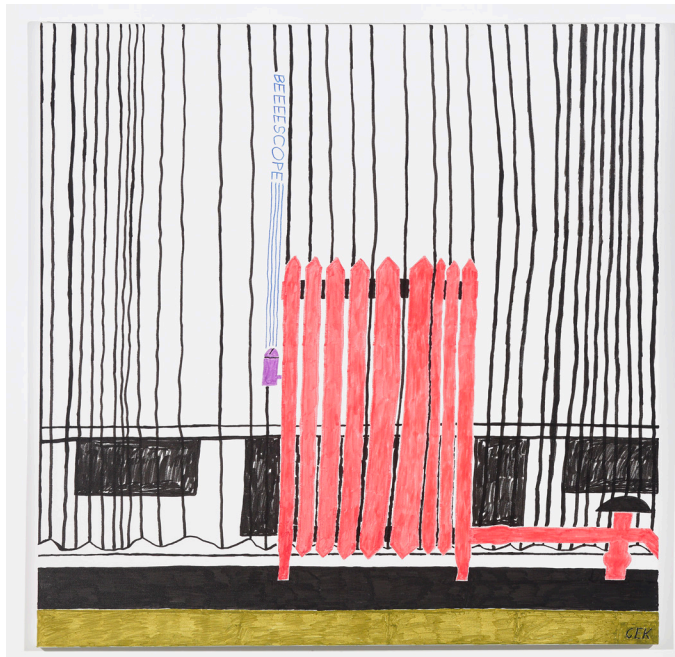
Three exhibitions will open on *Wednesday, September 16* at Institute of Contemporary Art, 118 South 36th Street. A members-only event at 5 p.m. will be followed by a public reception from 6-9 p.m. The exhibitions will run through *December 27*. For more information, visit www.icaphila.org/exhibitions

Christopher Knowles: *In a Word*

Christopher Knowles is regarded as a poet and painter, yet his output is broader than this suggests.

This exhibition, his most comprehensive to date, spans many media—text, sound, painting, drawing, sculpture and performance—including pieces made in collaboration with esteemed theater director Robert Wilson. The work records and reorders the everyday materials around us using incantatory rhythms and repetition. Typings of language permutations, reimagined song lyrics and interlocking blocks of raw color commonly depict family and close friends. Sculptures are precise and direct in construction: polka-dotted cones, brilliantly hued paper cut-outs, Lego structures and accumulations of wind-up alarm clocks. Performances feature daily routines rendered into theatrical exaggeration.

This exhibition was co-organized by chief curator Anthony Elms and guest curator Hilton Als, writer and chief theater critic for *The New Yorker*.



Christopher Knowles, Untitled, 2014, oil marker on canvas, 40 x 40 inches. Courtesy of the artist and Gavin Brown's enterprise, New York.



Josephine Pryde, Gift For Me, Simon Lee Gallery Christmas 2013 (1), 2015, Giclée print, 23 1/4 x 15 1/2 inches, edition 3/3. Courtesy of Reena Spaulings Fine Art, New York; Simon Lee Gallery, London and Galerie Neu, Berlin.

Josephine Pryde: *lapses in Thinking By the person i Am*

Josephine Pryde presents a new body of commissioned work for her first United States museum exhibition. It could be said that the composition, lighting and general style of Ms. Pryde's photographs recall fashion and portrait photography, but this would ignore the fact that fashion and portrait photography refer to art photographs, snapshots, documentary footage and more. This exhibition includes more than 20 photographs of hands shot with a macro lens so that detail can be enlarged in the final frame. The hands have brightly painted nails and are depicted in contact with a range of touch-sensitive devices—lamps, tablets, phones, human chests. The photographs may be viewed on foot; alternately, a fully functioning miniature rideable train offers visitors a short trip along the route of the show.

This exhibition was organized for CCA Wattis Institute in San Francisco by curator and head of programs Jamie Stevens, and organized at ICA by chief curator Anthony Elms.

Becky Suss

Becky Suss presents selections from her most recent body of work in her first solo museum exhibition. These meditative, large-scale paintings, augmented by smaller studies in oil and ceramic, reimagine the domestic spaces of her relatives with a focus on her late grandparents' mid-century suburban home. The flattened architecture and exaggerated perspective of Ms. Suss's canvases memorialize their collected art and objects through an intimate, archeological process that opens familial narrative to questions of class, politics and religion. Echoed in these works are the migratory shifts and political climates of Cold War America, from suburban sprawl to the Red Scare. Psychic and physical space is conflated as Ms. Suss works through memories and mythologies embedded within these interiors. Her ICA exhibition expands this inquiry with several new canvases and experiments in larger, more labor-intensive ceramic forms.

This exhibition was organized by ICA associate curator Kate Kraczon.



Becky Suss, Living Room (six paintings, four plates), 2015, oil on canvas, 84 x 108 inches. Courtesy of the artist and Fleisher/Ollman, Philadelphia.